

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A pectin comprising a galacturonic acid of from 70 to 90 mole % as a constituent sugar, and wherein the molecular weight measured by the gel filtration chromatography is in the range of 1×10^4 to 5×10^7 and the peak molecular weight is in the range of 2×10^5 to 1×10^7 .
2. (Original) The pectin according to claim 1, wherein the mole ratio of the constituent sugars of a galacturonic acid : arabinose : galactose : glucuronic acid : glucose : xylose : rhamnose : mannose : fructose is 7 to 9 : 0.4 to 0.7 : 0.4 to 0.6 : 0.1 to 0.6 : 0.05 to 0.5 : 0.04 to 0.4 : 0 to 0.1 : 0 to 0.08 : 0 to 0.05.
3. (Currently Amended) The pectin according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the pectin is separated and recovered from the a culture or the a culture broth obtained by culturing a Nigella plant cell.
4. (Original) The pectin according to claim 3, wherein the Nigella plant is Nigella damascena or Nigella sativa.
5. (Cancel)

6. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic material containing the pectin as described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.
7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the pectin as described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, claim 1, which comprises separating and recovering the pectin ~~as described in any one of claims 1 to 4~~ from ~~the~~ a culture or ~~the~~ a culture broth obtained by culturing ~~the~~ a Nigella plant cell.
8. (New) The pectin according to claim 2, wherein the pectin is separated and recovered from a culture or a culture broth obtained by culturing a Nigella plant cell.
9. (New) The pectin according to claim 8, wherein the Nigella plant is Nigella damascena or Nigella sativa.
10. (New) A moisturizer containing the pectin as described in claim 1.